



# The Ames Intelligencer

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Issue 1 of 3

Spring 1999

## Is Ames Ready For A Museum in 1999? Come Hear The Proposal For A Storefront Historical Museum in Ames



*At The Annual Meeting  
of the Membership*  
April 10, 1999, 10am to noon  
Reiman Garden's Mahlsted Center

Ames Heritage Association members can be the driving force behind opening a storefront Ames historical museum in 1999!

The Association's museum planning committee has worked for four years gathering information and learning how to start a professional, well-managed historical museum for the city of Ames. A community survey revealed the need to build awareness with a smaller facility.

Museum planners feel ready to open a small facility this year to test community reactions - *if AHA members and others interested will support it financially and/or with donated time.*

The AHA Board of Directors is asking for two things:

1) Attendance at the annual meeting to hear the proposal for a start-up storefront historical museum that will finally begin to tell the unique Ames story.

2) A donation [in addition to membership dues] specifically for rent and exhibit preparation for the first year of operation (goal: \$20,000). Members need to give whatever they can, but \$100 or more will allow us to come closer to our goal. AHA is a 501C3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

We urge you to make the dream of a historical museum come true by joining us on April 10th, with checkbook in hand!

Also present will be representatives from the local planning groups for a Transportation Museum and a Children's Museum.

*Call Kathy Svec, President, at 232-4877 or write if you can help, but cannot attend the meeting.*

### Potential Historical Exhibits

Museum professionals recommend focusing on a truly unique story. In addition to the specific persons and events that shaped our community persona, AHA feels the unique story for Ames is the story of discovery - how research, science, technology and education have changed the way we live and work.

Here are some ideas that have developed for museum exhibits - a few of many possible!

● **Two Good Reasons - How the Agricultural College and Transcontinental Railroad put Ames on the map in 1864**  
The Iowa Legislature's push for a model farm; How Adonijah and Mary Welch started the college from scratch; Growth of railroads after Civil War; How the railroad altered history in Story County - towns that lived, towns that didn't

● **How the Good Roads Movement affected Ames**

National highway development had an impact on Ames; Parley Sheldon's involvement & influence; Lincoln Highway/Highway 30 (our own "Route 66"); Growth of Highway Commission/DOT from College of Engineering at ISU

● **ISU's early role in educating women**  
Development of home economy curriculum; Notable women in ISU/Ames history

● **Solution of the early "train problem" in Ames by building the Grand Avenue underpass** Ben Cole & Sons builders - a bridge-building legacy in Ames;

● **Building construction "experiments" in Ames** Poured concrete building - Olsan's (now Lucullan's); Lustron home - all steel home; ISU's energy house

● **Early local businesses & industries - saw mills, grist mills, creameries, bottling works, cannery, and more**  
Early businesses created products to help the town grow; Munn's concrete blocks; Development of "value added" farm products not a new idea; Current food-related research

● **How the computer revolution started in Ames with Atanasoff-Berry Computer**

● **Horticultural pioneers - corn, apples, and more - Ames researchers refine new plants for the midwest**



## Board Sets Ambitious Plans for 1999

- Hoggatt School Open Regular Hours,
- Bauge Log Home To Be Completed

### Be a Open House Host At Hoggatt School

Have you ever attended a one-room school? Did you ever wonder what they were like? How often did you hear your father say, "When I was your age, I walked 5 miles to school every day!" and you wondered, "Did he really?"

Ames is lucky to still have its first school house, Hoggatt School, which has been restored on the grounds of Meeker School at 20th and Wilson. The school has seen less usage in the past few years, a situation the AHA Board would like to rectify.

Hoggatt School is used September to May by school groups, but is quiet during the summer. The Board would like to get wider usage of the school by opening it to the public during these months.

A goal has been set to open the school the twelve Sundays, June 1 to September 1, from 2 - 4:30pm, (except July 4) if volunteers can be found to host at least twice during the summer. Training will be supplied; no experience necessary. Contact Board member Carole Jensen at 515-233-2431 if you would like to learn to host school open houses.

In 1901, there were 12,623 one-room schools in operation in Iowa. In 1932, there were 9,279, with only Illinois having more. In 1953, a law was enacted to form community school districts, including all the non-high school districts. This law closed most country schools that were one-room districts. In 1998, there were 40 one-room schools in Iowa, mostly being used by religious groups like the Amish.

In Story County, there are 53 standing: 4 are museums, 13 are farm buildings, 34 are homes, 2 are vacant. The four museums are Sheldall School in Story City, Halley School in Nevada, Thorson School in Roland and Hoggatt School in Ames.

### Bauge Log Home Work Days Planned

Bauge Home work days have been set for April 24, May 15 and June 12.

The Board would like to finish the following list of items, which will complete the restoration:

- Frame in support structure for, and re-install beaded ceiling in lean-to, approximately 8x20'
- Place interior trim on 6 windows
- Rebuild 6x6' wall in lean-to
- Replace chinking in log wall
- Remove ceiling joists placed after 1890
- Build safety railing on stairway to loft
- Trim ends of roofing nails in loft
- Move iron stove to proper location in kitchen

Given the small size of the Log Home, a crew of up to 6 workers is adequate. The tasks include skilled and non-skilled labor. AHA members who know groups willing to do service projects are welcome. Persons willing to be part of the work crew may call Rollie Struss at 232-0865

The next open house is scheduled for May 3, in conjunction with the Story County Conservation Board's open house at McFarland Park.



Carole Jensen & Kay Beckett inventory.

### Work Session Puts Bauge Artifacts in Order

Board members and other volunteers had a productive Saturday morning last November 14.

The Story County Conservation Board has designated an area in the basement of the Conservation Center at McFarland Park for the storage of Bauge Log Home artifacts. Workers assembled storage units, inventoried all objects and separated AHA property from conservation board materials.

The new arrangement allows for easy access to and identification of Bauge items, and will accommodate more as the collection expands.

Still needed are metal-covered footlockers or similar sturdy containers which will prevent artifact damage from mice. Donations gratefully accepted.



Standing in front of newly organized artifacts are L. to R: Peggy Baer, Kay Beckett, Roger Beckett, Kathy Svec, Rollie Struss, Carole Jensen, Willie Struss



## Brothers Lynn R. Morris & Frank E. Morris Make Their Mark with Horses & Fire Prevention



In 1875, four-year-old Lynn Morris came to Ames in a covered wagon from Morrison Illinois with his parents, Willard and Adaline Morris. His family first settled three miles south of town, then moved to a farm northwest of Ames.

Lynn lived on the farm until he was 21 and moved to town to work for a bridge company. The year was 1892. Two years later, he joined his brother Frank in his livery stable business, where stood where the Sheldon-Munn Hotel now stands.

In April 1897, Lynn married Bertha Aiken. They had no children of their own, but raised a niece from infancy.

In 1898, Lynn left the business to take a job with the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad, but left that position in 1900 to open another livery at Duff and Main - only to sell it later to return to work for the railroad, this time the Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern.

Morris was charter member of the Ames Volunteer Fire Department, organized June 12, 1895, which also included C.C. Tallman, J.B. Elliott, Frank Allen, Jay Allen, O.F. Thore, C.H. Glidden and his brother, Frank Morris.

In 1910, Lynn was elected chief and in 1922 was appointed the first full-time chief, a position he held until his retirement in 1942.

Morris witnessed most of the city's worst fires, one of which nearly destroyed the Oddfellows building on

December 10, 1917. That same year, he dealt with the Armory roof fire on campus. In the 1930's the firemen fought the Margaret Hall and Engineering Extension fires at ISC.

As the story goes, it was always worth going to a fire when Lynn and brother Frank were volunteers, just to hear the brothers directing each other's activities. In his high pitched voice, Frank would call to Lynn to "come off that dangerous spot, you so-and-so!" Apparently they brought new meaning to the phrase "fighting fires".

When the fire department was organized in 1895, it had one hand drawn hose cart, 500 feet of 2½ inch hose and three fire hydrants. When Morris retired, there were 10 full-time firefighters, three trucks, 5100 feet of hose and 300 hydrants.

Lynn Morris was 80 when he died in 1951. He had served the Fire Department for 47 years - 32 of them as Chief.

Frank E. Morris was four years older than his brother Lynn, and was also born in Morrison, Illinois before his parents came further west to Iowa.

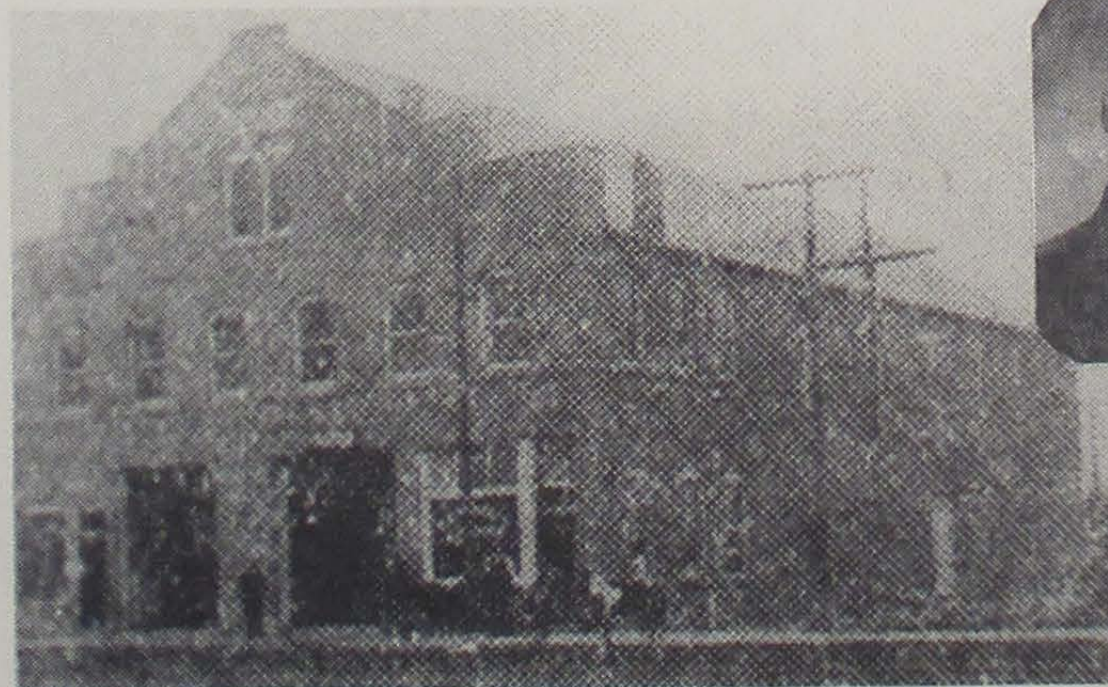
In 1893, Frank and Jay Allen started a livery business on the northwest corner of Onondaga (Main) and Kellogg. From 1894 to 1898, he and his brother Lynn ran the business together, and after Lynn went to the railroad in 1898, he ran it himself.

In 1907, when town Mayor Parley Sheldon announced in *The Intelligencer* his intentions to build a modern hotel on the property he owned at the corner of Onondaga and Kellogg, Frank's retort appeared the next week:

"You can tell Mayor Sheldon that I am much obliged to him for the nice bouquet he handed me in last week's *Intelligencer*. Yes, I am obliged to him, but you can say that I am a booster and in order to get the old shack out of the way, which I know is a disgrace to the city of Ames, I will vacate the place on 60 days' notice. We need a new hotel and if these Ames capitalists want to get busy with much needed improvements, I may be able to stretch a point and get our sooner. No, you will not have Frank Morris standing in the way of progress. I have the spirit on myself and want to build a really up-to-date stable that will compare with Parley Sheldon's new hotel. I mean to keep the livery business up with the procession."

In 1909, he built the Morris building at Burnett and Main where he operated his business until he retired in 1916 - about the time that automobiles were replacing horses. In that year, Jay Adams bought the building for his furniture and undertaking business. Frank's building is now occupied by Big Table Books.

Frank married Ella Dodd in 1894, and they had three sons, Glen (Newt), Clare (Pete) and Ralph (Mike). Frank was 81 when he died in 1949.



Frank and his 1909 livery at Burnett & Main







Chief Lynn Morris is second left with his firefighters, standing on their new 1916 American LeFrance truck. This truck replaced a horse-drawn fire wagon.

## Iowa History Forum Set For June 11&12

The 1999 annual conference of the State Historical Society will be presented June 11-12 at the Iowa Historical building in Des Moines. Jack Shelley will speak during a session on journalism and the Dinkey will be included in a session on the Interurban - among many others.

For a brochure, call 515-281-6058.

*Ames Intelligencer*  
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## Are You A Current Member? Check Your Label!

The new membership year started  
January 1, 1999.

If you can't remember whether you've renewed, check your mailing label below - renewals received since Jan. 1 have a 1999 date next to the name. If you haven't renewed, please take a moment to do so.

**All our activities depend on you!**

Memberships start at \$20.

Mail to PO Box 821,  
Ames, Iowa 50010

## New Ames History Book By Farwell T. Brown Nears Readiness

The second book of Ames stories by Ames Historian, Farwell T. Brown is in the final stages of production at Huess Printing, Ames. In addition to more than 40 stories, the book will include an extensive index guide to original sources for a number of topics.

## In the next issue: Part 2 of The Bungalow in America: Bungalows in Ames by Gary Griggs, architect

Ames Heritage Association Board: Pres. Kathy Svec; Sec. Kay Beckett; Treas. Bill LaGrange; Rollic & Willie Struss, Peggy Baer, Carole Jensen, Gary Griggs, Diane Schmidt

Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and displays. The Board meets the 3rd Wed. of each month, September - June.

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